Special Concessions to Indian Textiles Exporters

† 750. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Commission has refused to extend special concessions to the Indian textile exporters till India rationalizes its import duty and releases its notification in accordance with the World Trade Organisation laws; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and European Commission (EC) in 1994. As per clause 2 of the MoU, India has notified the bindings of tariffs against products mentioned in the MoU. A system of "exceptional flexibilites." has been provided under Clause 6 of MoU. However, the European Commission is yet to grant exceptional flexibilities as per clause 6 of the MoU as the bindings are under examination by the EU.

Textile Parks

751. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile parks across the country are coming up;

(b) if so, the locations thereof and the contributions of Government therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of the small scale textile units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some State Governments like Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have set up apparel parks. The benefit of support extended under Export Promotion Industrial Park and Critical Infrastructure Balancing Schemes is available to all units, including garments/textile units set up in the designated Parks.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) It has always been the policy of Government to safeguard the interest of the small scale industry, including textile industry. For this purpose a number of measures such as reservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the SSI sector, fiscal concession in the form of excise relief, priority sector lending to SSI, Infrastructure Development Scheme, Enhanced Technology support for modernisation and quality upgradation, enhancement of Entrepreneurship Development Programme by involving voluntary agencies and strengthening extrepreneurship development institutes, enhancing the limit of composite loans, enlarging the coverage of TDMF Scheme have been taken for promotion of small scale industries.

Modernisation of Pondicherry Textile Corporation

752. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provision has been made by Government to modernise the Pondicherry Textile Corporation in the Union Territory of Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned to the mill;

(c) whether it is a fact that the mill is sustaining huge loan every year;

(d) if so, the loan sanctioned every year since 1996 to 1997 yearwise; and

(e) what steps have been taken to minimise the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFTEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The Pondicherry Textile Corporation, Pondicherry is a Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of Pondicherry. It was taken over by the Government of Pondicherry under the Anglo-French Textiles Limited (Acquisition & Transfer of Textile Undertaking) Act, 1986. Since then, it is being managed by the Government of Pondicherry. Therefore, efficient and smooth running of the mill including its modernisation and minimisation of losses etc. come within the purview of the Government of Pondicherry. However, Government of India have launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for textile and jute industries, which is in operation since 1st April, 1999 for a period of 5 years. This is not specific to any particular mill, including the units of the Pondicherry Textile Corporation. Any eligible textile/jute unit can avail of funds within the frame